

Covenant School of Nursing
Disciplinary Action Summary Assignment
Instructional Module 2

Student Name: Alina Mills

Date: 09/07/2023

DAS Assignment # 4

Name of the defendant: Suzanne Elaine Cutler

License number of the defendant: 789818

Date action was taken against the license: May 8th, 2012.

Type of action taken against the license: REVOKED

Use the space below to describe the events which led to the action(s) taken against the license. If multiple charges were in play, be sure and cite them, e.g. drug diversion, HIPAA violation, abandonment, forfeiture on student loans, etc.

Charge 1

In 2011 Suzanne Cutler failed to properly care for patients' due to her falling asleep during her shift. Cutler due to her negligence puts her patients at risk for not noticing subtle or sudden changes in her patients.

Charge 2

During this same day Cutler admitted to taking a Klonopin tablet prior to her shift. This anti-anxiety medication would not allow for accurate assessment of her patients.

Charge 3

Continuing this day, Cutler failed to respond to doctors' orders for her total care pediatric patient. Cutler failed to administer: Xopenex, CPT treatment, Keppra (anticonvulsant), Omeprazole, infant Tylenol, Neosporin, robinul, and tube feeding. Due to this failure, the patient suffered an "increased number" of seizures. This negligence could have injured the patient.

Charge 4

3 months later from first three charges, Cutler again repeated her negligence, by falling asleep on her shift. Putting her patients at risk.

Charge 5

5 days later from fourth charge, Cutler was seen and reported to be disoriented and confused. When approached the following day she was unable to remember the details of this shift. This could impair Cutler's ability to properly monitor and assess her patients.

Charge 6

The same day as the fifth charge, Cutler failed to follow doctor's orders and did not administer Klonopin (clonazepam), this could lead to adverse effects or injure the patient.

Charge 7

The same day as the fifth and sixth charge, Cutler falsely documented that she did administer the klonopin. This inaccuracy and falsification of medication administration could lead to the continuing of inadequate care.

Use the space below to provide a description of measures you think could have prevented any action being taken against the license and/or would have prevented harm to the patient, if harm occurred.

Cutler first and foremost should have consulted her doctor and informed them of her inability to function while on Klonopin. Continuing, Cutler should have spoken with her charge nurse if she did not feel she was able to properly perform the task for that shift. And because of her failure to report herself, a patient could have been seriously injured. Cutler also should not have falsified the administration of any drug.

Identify which universal competencies were violated and explain how.

Cutler violated her professional role as she did not create a safe environment for her patients and was unable to function and was disoriented on her shift. Cutler violated her obligation for accurate documentation, as she falsified medication administration.

Use the space below to describe what action you think a prudent nurse would take as the first to person to discover the event described, in other words, you are the one who discovers the patient has been harmed by the nurse or you have discovered the impairment or criminal activity cited in the disciplinary action.

If I was a nurse working with Cutler and she was asleep on the job, I would immediately attempt to wake her and ask her if she is okay to be working. I would then report to the charge nurse what I have seen. If I were to see Cutler disoriented, confused or sleeping again, with the knowledge of her past shift, I would've immediately requested that the charge nurse would take immediate action in order for the safety of the patients.